

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
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USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0799

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, WB, MFR  
SUBJECT: POLITICAL CLUB

REF: CONVERSATION BETWEEN CHESTER - EUR/CE AND USBER OFFICERS

SUMMARY: THIS MISSION HAS FOR SOME TIME PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO THE POLITICAL CLUB "WORKING GROUP FOR EUROPEAN COOPERATION," A BERLIN-BASED ORGANIZATION WHICH BRINGS TOGETHER PEOPLE FROM EAST AND WEST TO DISCUSS EUROPEAN ISSUES. CLUB CHAIRMAN VON KRIES HAS APPROACHED THE MISSION TO ASK ITS ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING SUITABLE U.S. REPRESENTATION FOR A MEETING IN VIENNA FROM JUNE 8 - JUNE 11 ON SECURITY ISSUES, INCLUDING MBFR. HE WILL ALSO BE APPROACHING USDEL MBFR WITH A REQUEST THAT A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION ADDRESS THE GROUP ON MBFR AND THAT, IF POSSIBLE, A MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE ENTIRE SESSION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE POLITICAL CLUB, BASED IN BERLIN, WAS ESTABLISHED TEN YEARS AGO WITH THE SAME KIND OF CHARTER AS THE ASPEN INSTITUTE. IT RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM A NUMBER OF SOURCES INCLUDING EUROPEAN COMMISSION, THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE, AND THE BERLIN SENAT. ITS ANNUAL MEETINGS TAKE  
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PLACE IN BERLIN USUALLY IN MARCH. THIS MARCH FORMER AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND AND MINISTER MEEHAN AMONG OTHERS ADDRESSED THE 40-ODD PARTICIPANTS. IN RECENT YEARS, THE SOVIETS HAVE SHOWN INCREASING INTEREST IN THE CLUB, AND AT THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING FIELDDED A FOUR-MAN DELEGATION LED BY VSEVOLOD YEZHOF OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE. THIS MISSION SUPPORTS THE

ACTIVITIES OF THE CLUB BECAUSE THEY HELP TO MAKE BERLIN AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING PLACE AND TO ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING OF THE BERLIN SITUATION IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

2. THE CLUB, BESIDES ITS ANNUAL MEETING, BREAKS INTO SIX WORKING GROUPS, CONCERNED WITH DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF ITS STATED ROLE AS A "WORKING GROUP FOR EUROPEAN COOPERATION." FOR EXAMPLE, WORKING GROUP NO. 5 ON AGRICULTURAL AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION MEETS IN BRUSSELS FROM MAY 18-21. HOWEVER, CLUB CHAIRMAN VON KRIES IS VERY ANXIOUS TO OBTAIN GODD U.S. REPRESENTATION AT A MEETING FROM JUNE 8-JUNE 11 IN VIENNA OF WORKING GROUP NO. 2 ON "QUESTIONS OF STABILITY AND SECURITY/POLITICAL BALANCE IN EUROPE." THIS WORKING GROUP IS TO DISCUSS CBMS, DISARMAMENT DISCUSSIONS, EUROPEAN SECURITY SYSTEM, AND MBFR. VON KRIES SAYS THAT HE EXPECTS A REASONABLY HIGH QUALITY SOVIET DELEGATION WHO WILL BE VIGOROUSLY PRESENTING THE SOVIET SIDE ON THESE ISSUES AND ESPECIALLY MBFR. HE THEREFORE HOPES THAT A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE VERSED IN THE ISSUES WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING TO PROVIDE A COUNTERWEIGHT. IN ADDITION HE HOPES THAT AMBASSADOR RESOR OR MR. DEAN OF USDEL MBFR WOULD BE WILLING TO ADDRESS THE GROUPS AND, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, COULD PERMIT A MEMBER OF USDEL MBFR TO ATTEND THE ENTIRE SESSION.

3. VON KRIES STATES THAT HE IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE TRAVEL  
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MONEY FOR PARTICIPANTS BUT THAT HE WILL COVER HOTEL AND OTHER EXPENSES DURING A MEETING. THE LANGUAGE OF THE CLUB IS GERMAN ALTHOUGH TRANSLATION FACILITIES ARE SOMETIMES AVAILABLE. IT IS HOWEVER MUCH BETTER NOT ONLY AT THE ACTUAL SESSIONS BUT FOR DINNERS AND CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS TO BE ABLE TO HANDLE GERMAN.

4. IN KEEPING WITH ITS DESIRE TO ASSIST THE POLITICAL CLUB THE MISSION WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE IF IT PROVED POSSIBLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO FIND A QUALIFIED OFFICER TO ATTEND THE VIENNA MEETING. IT OCCURRED TO US THAT SOMEONE ALREADY TRAVELLING IN EUROPE ON TDY DURING THAT PERIOD MIGHT BE ABLE TO ARRANGE HIS SCHEDULE SO AS TO PERMIT ATTENDANCE. THE MISSION WOULD ALSO BE GRAEAETFUL TO AMBASSADOR RESOR IF HE OR HIS DESIGNEE COULD ADDRESS THE MEETING AND IF A MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ATTEND THE ENTIRE SESSION. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS PARTICULAR EAST/WEST FORUM WHICH BRINGS TOGETHER PARTICIPANTS FROM SEVEN OR EIGHT COUNTRIES PROVIDES A USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO PROBE THE VIEWS OF COMMUNIST PARTICIPANTS FROM OTHER

THAN THE FOREIGN OFFICES AND TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH  
WESTERN EXPERT FROM A VARIETY OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES,  
UNIVERSITIES, AND THINK-TANKS. GEORGE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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